

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For More Information:**

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**SECRETARY JAEGER TO HOLD  
STATEWIDE ELECTION CONFERENCE**

Bismarck, N.D. – A statewide election conference for over 100 county election officials will be held in Bismarck on Thursday, March 25. According to Secretary of State Al Jaeger, the election conference will focus on the preparations for the 2004 June and November elections.

During the one-day conference, county election officials will attend sessions on ballot set-up and content, measures, training poll workers, sensitivity training for communicating with persons with disabilities, new voter identification requirements, and changes made in the state's election laws by the 2003 legislative session and by the Help America Vote Act passed by Congress in 2002.

On Wednesday, training sessions will be held for the 28 counties\* using the new optical scanning voting equipment in the June election. Voters in those counties will place their ballots into the scanning device, which will deposit the ballot into a secured box if no errors have been made. If an error is detected on the ballot, the voter is given a chance to correct it.

The remaining 25 counties, implementing new voting equipment in 2006, will be given training on posting county election results direct to the Secretary of State's website. This will allow for unofficial statewide and district election results becoming available much sooner than in past elections.

The election conference begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Brynhild Haugland Room of the State Capitol. It will conclude by 4:00 p.m.

\* The following counties, representing approximately two-thirds of the state polling locations will use the optional scanner in June: Adams, Benson, Billings, Bowman, Burke, Burleigh, Cass, Dickey, Dunn, Foster, Grand Forks, Griggs, Logan, McHenry, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Pierce, Richland, Rolette, Sargent, Sheridan, Stark, Towner, Steele, Traill, Ward, and Williams.

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